

Despite the fact that the bill passed with bipartisan support of the majority of this Nation's elected leaders, the bill remains stalled. A couple of members in the other body are using an unusual delay tactic to prevent them from going to conference.

Filibustering judicial nominees is one thing, but blocking a bill that both Chambers have already passed overwhelmingly is just wrong. Their tactics threaten how Congress works and how our democracy functions. Even worse, every day this bill sits in no-man's land, more babies can be partially delivered and then killed.

We need to get the bill to conference, to the President to honor the commitment of both Chambers of Congress to the American people to end this terrible practice for good.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members that they should avoid characterization of Senate actions.

SUPPORT H.R. 2738, CHILE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, this week Congress has an opportunity to pass legislation to implement a free trade agreement with our partner in commerce, the nation of Chile. I might mention also Singapore, but I am going to focus on Chile.

Since 1997, when Chile adopted free trade agreements with MERCOSUR, Mexico, and Canada, U.S. companies' share of the Chilean import market has fallen by 7 percent, amounting to something like over \$1 billion. Meanwhile, the countries that have a free trade agreement with Chile gained over 9 percent of that market. There can be no question that our loss to the Chilean market is directly related to missed trade opportunities. The Chile FTA will turn this around.

If we vote to pass H.R. 2738, we ensure future American competitiveness in Chilean markets and the continued growth of our own economy, which will benefit all Americans. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support and vote "yes" on the Chilean Free Trade Agreement.

SUPPORT FREE TRADE WITH CHILE AND SINGAPORE

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, the House will vote tomorrow on a free trade agreement, not just with Chile, but also with Singapore.

Free trade agreements have transformed other countries now allied to the United States. For example, our agreement with Jordan boosted Jordanian trade from \$5 million to \$400 million. We have that opportunity with Chile, a country whose economic policy sometimes is more advanced than our own. We proposed this agreement in 1991 when I served in the State Department. It is about time.

And Singapore. Singapore has become the de facto Southeast Pacific base for the United States Navy. With trouble from North Korea to Iran, strengthening our ties to Singapore strengthens our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote "yes" on free trade with Singapore and with Chile.

REFORMS FOR HEAD START THROUGH SCHOOL READINESS ACT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, every child should enter school with the basic skills needed for learning. Although Head Start has provided children with satisfactory nutrition and health care, it needs reform to significantly improve in their ability to learn.

As spearheaded by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the School Readiness Act will address this problem in Head Start by increasing academic and teacher requirements, while preserving and strengthening health, nutrition, parental literacy, and family services. Additionally, we are asking for an additional \$202 million in funding for fiscal year 2004 for a total of \$6.87 billion, an amount that is double the amount in 1996.

A very important part of the School Readiness Act is a pilot program in eight States that would integrate existing State prekindergarten programs with Head Start. I am excited that South Carolina will be eligible to take part, as it will help ensure all children enter kindergarten with the academic tools necessary to succeed.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the School Readiness Act.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

TRIBUTE TO THE LAO-HMONG AND HONORING NATIONAL LAO- HMONG RECOGNITION DAY

(Mr. BEAUPREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Lao-Hmong on the occasion of National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day.

The Lao-Hmong fought alongside American soldiers in Vietnam in opposition to tyranny and Communist con-

trol. The Lao-Hmong have been recognized for their dedication and bravery displayed in defense of freedom. However, they deserve more than recognition. The Lao-Hmong are worthy of our most sincere gratitude and the deepest appreciation for all they have done.

I am proud to say the first official recognition of the Lao-Hmong's courageous achievements took place in my district in Golden, Colorado, on July 22, 1995. Last year, Congress officially recognized, through legislation, July 22 of every year as a day to remember, reflect, and pay homage to the Lao-Hmong community in America.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to speak in celebration of National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day. I commend the Lao-Hmong community for their courage and join my fellow Americans in celebrating this day with a grateful heart.

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FRESHMAN CLASS MISSION TO STOP WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the freshman class agrees that the waste has got to stop. The President agrees, the Congress agrees. Taxpayers must manage their own money, and so should the government. We are saddled with too many costly programs that are duplicated across too many agencies.

It is our goal to provide effective government efficiency by eliminating programs that do not use our resources wisely. By using outcome-based measures and full cost accounting, this scrutiny can provide a powerful motivation for agencies to improve the efficiency of the programs that they oversee.

Virtually every committee in Congress can make this effort a priority, reviewing the areas of jurisdiction for waste, fraud and abuse. At the Committee on Government Reform, we are particularly attuned to this effort and are well into reviews of agencies and programs that simply spend and spend without any results.

I would argue that any money wasted is too much, but we are talking millions and billions of dollars. I hope my colleagues will join my fellow freshmen and me as we are going after this abuse.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for us to prioritize and reorganize government.

BUSH STATE OF THE UNION AND URANIUM INTELLIGENCE

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today expressing a